

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 30, 31, 34 through 45, and 47 through 51 are now pending in the application. Claim 46 has been canceled. Claims 45 and 47 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 50 and 51 have been added to accord Applicants an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. See for example, page 42, line 10, *et. seq.* of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 30, 43, 45, 49, and 50 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 30, 31, 34 through 44, and 49 are allowed.

It is also acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 46 and 47 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Initially it is noted that Claim 45 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 45, which has been canceled, and Claims 47 now depends on Claims 45. Accordingly, Claims 46 and 47 should now also be allowable and further comment on the objection is not necessary.

Art Rejection

Claims 45 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,243 (Shoji, et al.).

The rationale underlying the foregoing rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejection

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 45 and 47 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 46, which has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 45 and 47 should be allowable. Accordingly, further comment on the rejection is not necessary.

Independent Claim 50

Independent Claim 50 calls for a cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The cartridge includes a collecting container for containing magnetic particles collected from the image forming apparatus; and a rotatable member for rotation relative to the collecting container. The rotatable member includes a magnet and is provided adjacent to the collecting container.

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 50 also is allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims

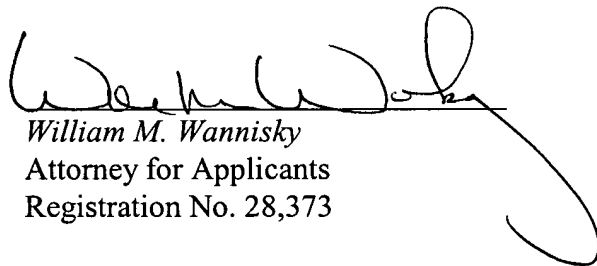
Claims 31, 34 through 42, 44, 47, 48, and 51 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 30, 43, 45, and 50 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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